

REMARKS

The following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated June 26, 2009. In view of the amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to all outstanding rejections and/or objections, that they be withdrawn, and to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

Claims 17-21 are under consideration in this application. Claim 17 is being amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject invention. All the amendments to the claims are supported by the specification. Applicants hereby submit that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

Formality Rejection

The Examiner rejected claims 17-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner contended that limitations recited in the claims were not described in the specification.

As outlined above, claim 17 is being amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject invention, thereby obviating this rejection. In particular, the specification discloses on page 16, lines 12-16 that “(4) *The peak value of brain activity calculated in the approach (2) is determined for each continued session of training and variations in peak value throughout the training session from the initiation to completion thereof are evaluated.*” This recitation supports the language of claim 17 wherein “*said information processor obtains peak values of brain activities between a predetermined time period before or after response times corresponding to the plurality of trainings, calculates variations as a training effect by comparing the peak values of the brain activities with a peak value of one of the brain activities corresponding to a last one of the trainings, and displays the response times, the accuracies of responses and the variations on the screen.*” Thus, Applicants will contend that the limitations recited in the claims of record are fully described and supported in the disclosure of the present invention.

Prior Art Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 17-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by the DeCharms (US Publication No. 2002/0103429) on grounds that the reference shows the claimed elements of the present invention. Applicants have reviewed the above-noted rejection and hereby respectfully traverse.

The present invention as not recited in claim 1 is directed to a training assistant system comprising: a training task presentation unit which has a screen for presenting a training task or a training content regarding a plurality of trainings to a trainee; a trainee's response collection unit which collects a response of the trainee and a response time to the training task or the training content; an information processor which calculates an accuracy of response of the trainee to the training task or the training content; and a brain measurement unit which emits light to a predetermined portion of the trainee's head, receives reflecting light from the inside of the trainee's head, and detects a change of an intensity of the reflecting light which depends on a change of a blood flow of the predetermined portion of the trainee's head. The information processor obtains peak values of brain activities between a predetermined time period before or after response times corresponding to the plurality of trainings, calculates variations as a training effect by comparing the peak values of the brain activities with a peak value of one of the brain activities corresponding to a last one of the trainings, and displays the response times, the accuracies of responses and the variations on the screen.

As recited on page 2, line 20 to page 3, line 4 of the specification, *"In a region termed a working memory having the function of temporarily retaining memory in the frontal cortex, activity is vigorous at the initial stage of physical movement training but the level of activity gradually lowers as the person being trained is more skilled at the movement. The reason for this may be that the person who has just begun the unfamiliar training needs intervention of the temporary memory region at the initial stage thereof to get accustomed to the movement but, as the person is more skilled, he or she can move quickly without intervention of the temporary memory retention region."* Among the main features of the present invention, the comparison peak values of the brain activities to a peak value of one of the brain activities to a last one of the training periods after repeating a plurality of training periods, corresponds to the activity of the temporary memory retention region.

Unlike the present invention and contrary to the Examiner's assertions, the reference of DeCharms merely discloses in paragraph [0346] an evaluation for the change between task and rest in a trial; in paragraph [0483] a detection for brain activity of a ROI, and 2222a

comparison with target data and a calculation of closeness to the target; and in paragraphs [0549]-[0550] a trace of brain activity changes in ROI 12011 among the rest period and the task period.

Applicants will strongly but respectfully contend that this reference does not show or suggest at least a comparison of peak values of the brain activities to a peak value of one of the brain activities corresponding to a last one of the training periods after repeating a plurality of training periods, as in the present invention as claimed.

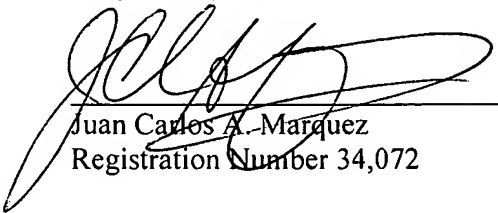
Thus, Applicants respectfully contend that the cited reference of DeCharms fails to show or suggest the features recited in the independent claim 17 or its dependent claims, and consequently cannot anticipate or render obvious the claimed invention. As such, the present invention as now claimed is distinguishable and thereby allowable over the rejection raised in the Office Action. The withdrawal of the outstanding prior art rejections is in order, and is respectfully solicited.

Conclusion

In view of all the above, Applicants respectfully submit that certain clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention as now claimed and the prior art references upon which the rejections in the Office Action rely. These differences are more than sufficient that the present invention as now claimed would not have been anticipated nor rendered obvious given the prior art. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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